What is claimed is:

1. A subassembly for use in an add/drop module, said subassembly comprising:
first and second submodules, each submodule having one or more compartments for containing individual add/drop filters;
a first plurality of cascaded add/drop filters installed in said first submodule; and
a second plurality of cascaded add/drops filters installed in said second submodule.

2. The subassembly of claim 1, wherein said submodules are substantially similar.

3. The subassembly of claim 2, wherein said submodules are hermaphroditic.

4. The subassembly of claim 3, wherein said compartments are asymmetrically located on said submodules such that when the submodules are combined, the compartments of opposite submodules are offset from one another and thus do not interfer with one another.

5. The subassembly of claim 1, wherein each submodule has at least two compartments.

6. The subassembly of claim 5, wherein each compartment has at least two add/drop filters stacked therein.

7. The subassembly of claim 6, wherein each compartment has at least five add/drop filters stacked therein.

8. The subassembly of claim 1, wherein each submodule has bend guides to maintain a minimum bend radius for the fibers of said add/drop filters.

9. The subassembly of claim 8, wherein each bend guide manages at least two fibers.

10. The subassembly of claim 9, wherein fibers of add/drop filters contained in different compartments use the same bend guide.

11. The subassembly of claim 10, wherein said first plurality of add/drop filters is used for multiplexing and said second plurality of add/drops is used for demultiplexing.

12. An add/drop module comprising:

a housing;

a tray mounted in said housing, wherein said tray comprises at least:

first and second submodules, each submodule having one or more compartments for containing individual add/drop filters;

a first plurality of cascaded add/drop filters installed in said first submodule;

a second plurality of cascaded add/drops filters installed in said second submodule; and

connectors mounted to said housing and optically connected to the fibers at the ends of said first and second plurality of cascaded add/drop filters.